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Action

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Control: 9940
Rec'd: June 19, 1954
6:26 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1045, June 19, 1 p.m.

PRIORITY

PASS DEFENSE

Salvadoran Embassy official said today that Lt. Col. Luis Urrutia, active Guatemalan Air Force officer, had taken asylum there this morning. Col Urrutia had said he had planned flee country with two other officers and three mechanics in one of Guatemalan Air Force small bombers. Just as he was about to take off, opposition aircraft straffed airfield and rendered his plane unserviceable.

Urrutia also had said 90 percent Guatemalan Air Force officers would leave country within 48 hours; they had discussed this among themselves and were in full agreement

Salvadoran further said that Ambassador Funes had learned from source whom he considered reliable that Arbenz was thinking of resigning. He was especially angry because army would not (repeat not) distribute arms to peasants and laborers, which Arbenz regarded as necessary.

In view of Arbenz known stubbornness, I question whether he is seriously thinking of resigning.

PEURIFOY

RSP/9

Note: Passed Defense 6/19/54, 8 p.m., AL

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